

NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
Sustainable
Fisheries

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview

March 29, 2016

Goal of Presentation

- Brief update of recent actions
- Defer issues to be discussed later in meeting:
 - Atlantic bluefin tuna management and Amendment 7
 - Atlantic shark management including Final Amendment 9, Final 2016 shark specifications, lemon shark aggregation, and upcoming blacknose shark rule
 - Draft Amendment 10 HMS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
 - Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) Program
 - HMS Recreational Tournament Survey
 - Deepwater Horizon Pelagic Longline Project
 - National Bycatch Initiatives

Rulemaking/Operations

Since the September 2015 AP meeting:

- Published one proposed rule: ICCAT eBCD
- Published two final rules: Amendment 9 and 2016 shark specifications
- Published multiple inseason actions & oversaw 25 workshops

In 2015:

- Issued 36 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 7 shark research fishery permits
- Registered 273 HMS tournaments

In 2016, so far:

- Issued 4 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 5 shark research fishery permits
- Registered 97 HMS tournaments
- ~5,500 people receiving Atlantic HMS News



Amendment 5b Status

- Oceana filed a lawsuit on October 27, 2015 regarding dusky shark management
 - Litigation is ongoing
- Dusky shark stock assessment is underway using data through 2015
 - Peer-reviewed finalized stock assessment is expected by the end of August
- HMS Advisory Panel consultation planned for September meeting

Swordfish General Commercial Inseason Action

- Adjusted Swordfish General Commercial and HMS Charter/Headboat permit (only when on a non-for-hire trip) retention limits

Region	<u>Default</u> Retention Limit per Vessel per Trip	<u>Adjusted</u> Retention Limit per Vessel per Trip	Effective Period (2016)
Northwest Atlantic	3 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – June 30
Gulf of Mexico	3 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – June 30
U.S. Caribbean	2 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – June 30
Florida Swordfish Management Area	0 SWO/Vessel/Trip	0 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – December 31



Shark Inseason Actions

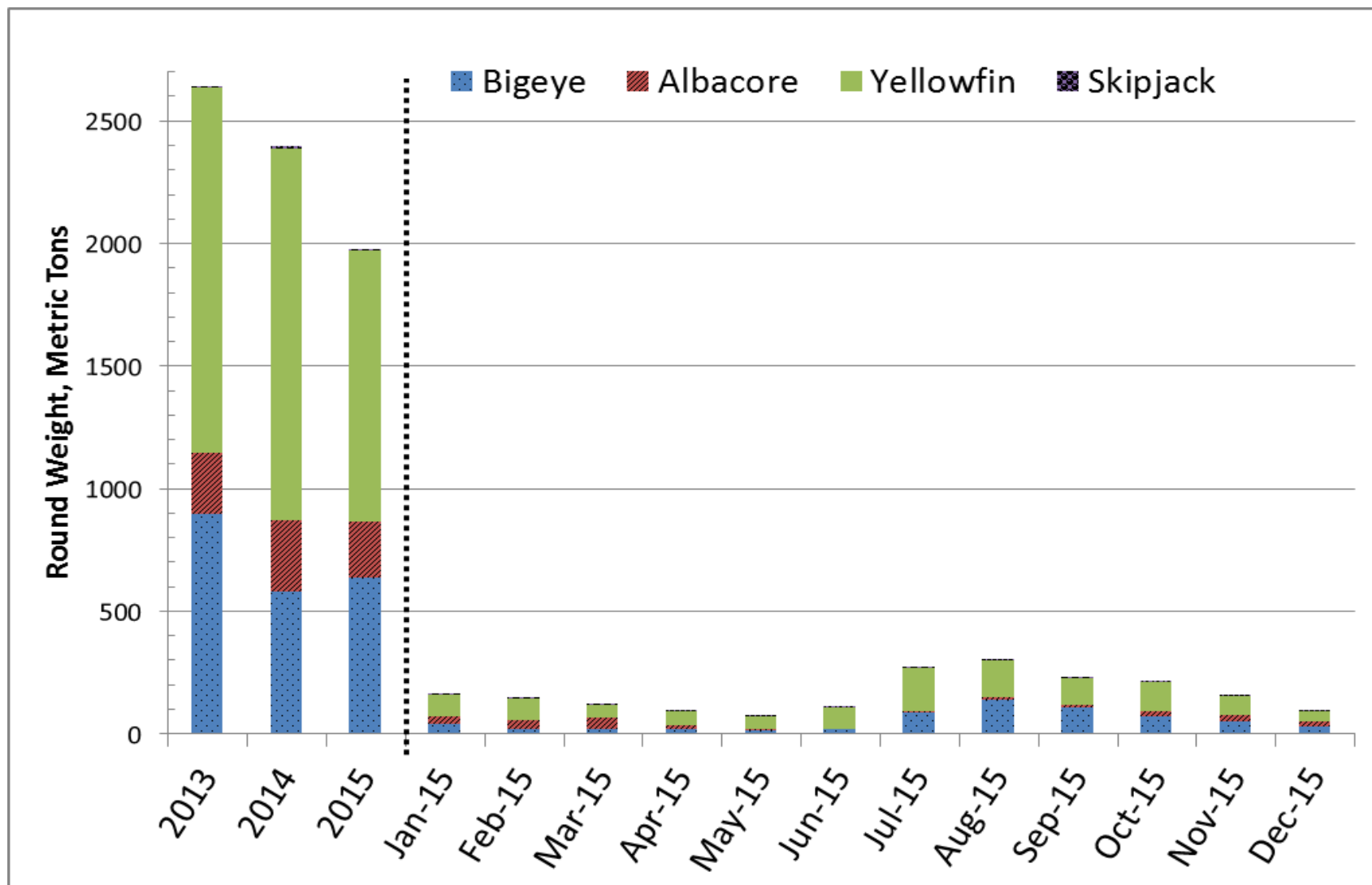
2015 Inseason Actions:

- Closed the Gulf of Mexico blacktip, aggregated LCS, and hammerhead shark fisheries on May 3 (80 FR 24836)
- Closed the Atlantic non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark fisheries on June 7 (80 FR 32040)
- Closed the Gulf of Mexico non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark fisheries on July 4 (80 FR 38016)
- Closed the Gulf of Mexico non-blacknose SCS fishery on December 5 (80 FR 75436)

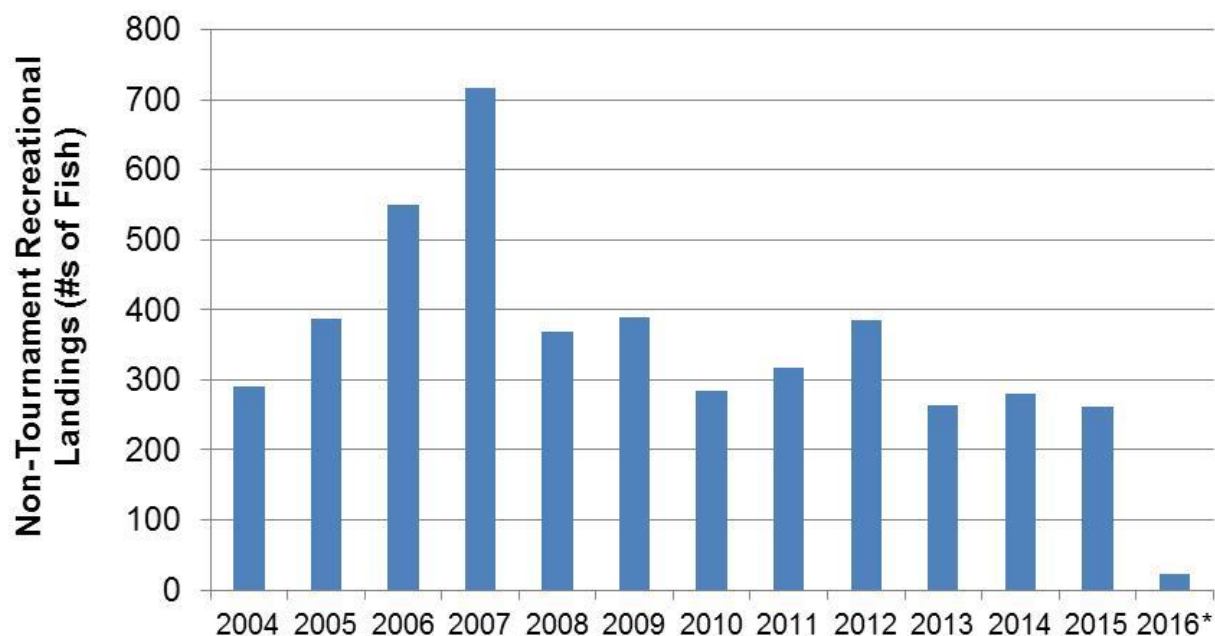
2016 Inseason Actions:

- Closed the Gulf of Mexico blacktip, aggregated LCS, and hammerhead shark fisheries on March 12 (81 FR 12602)

Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, & Skipjack (BAYS) Tuna Landings



Recreational Swordfish Landings

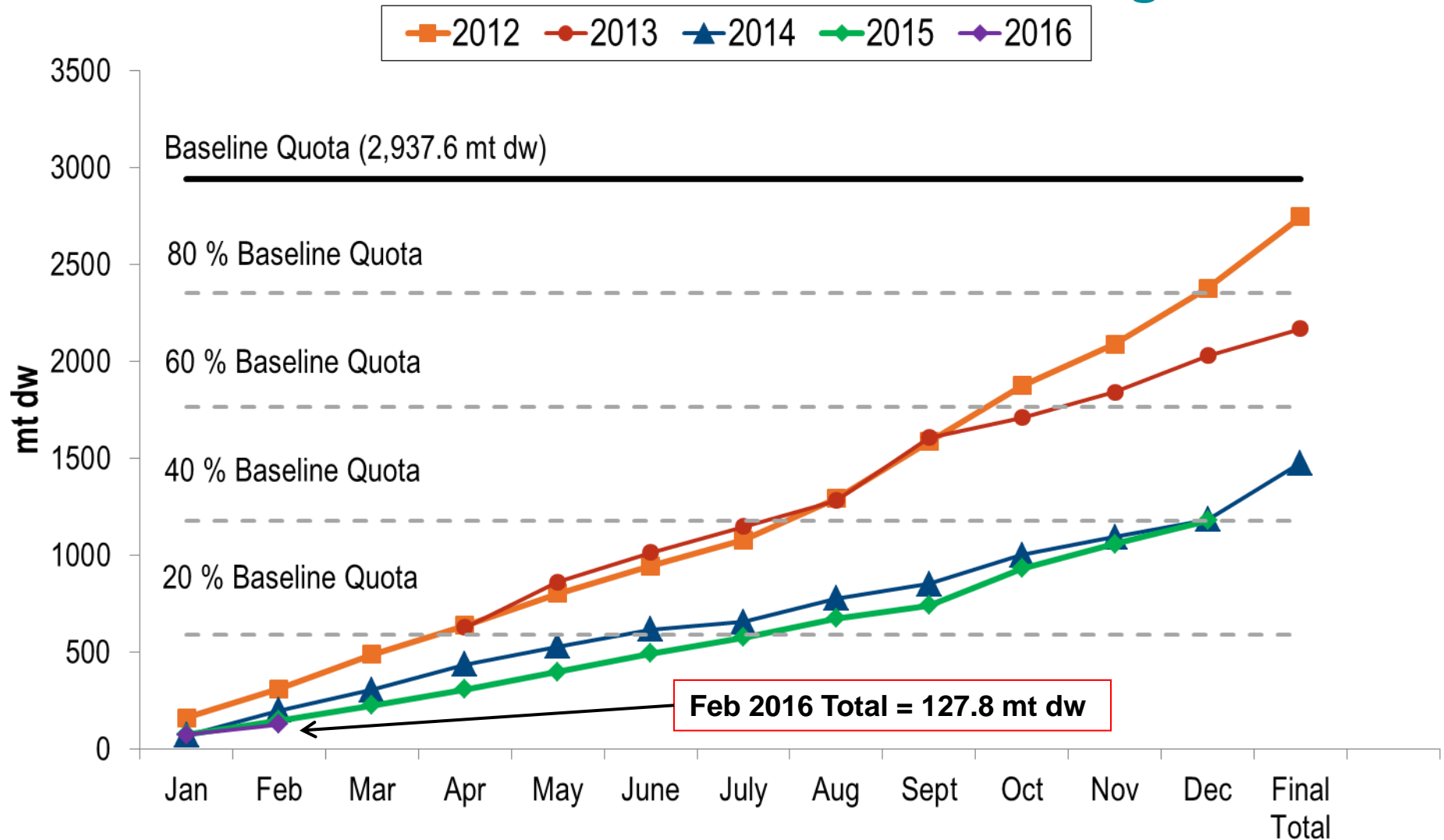


Year	Non-tournament Landings (# fish)
2004	290
2005	388
2006	549
2007	716
2008	369
2009	389
2010	285
2011	318
2012	386
2013	263
2014	281
2015	261
2016*	22

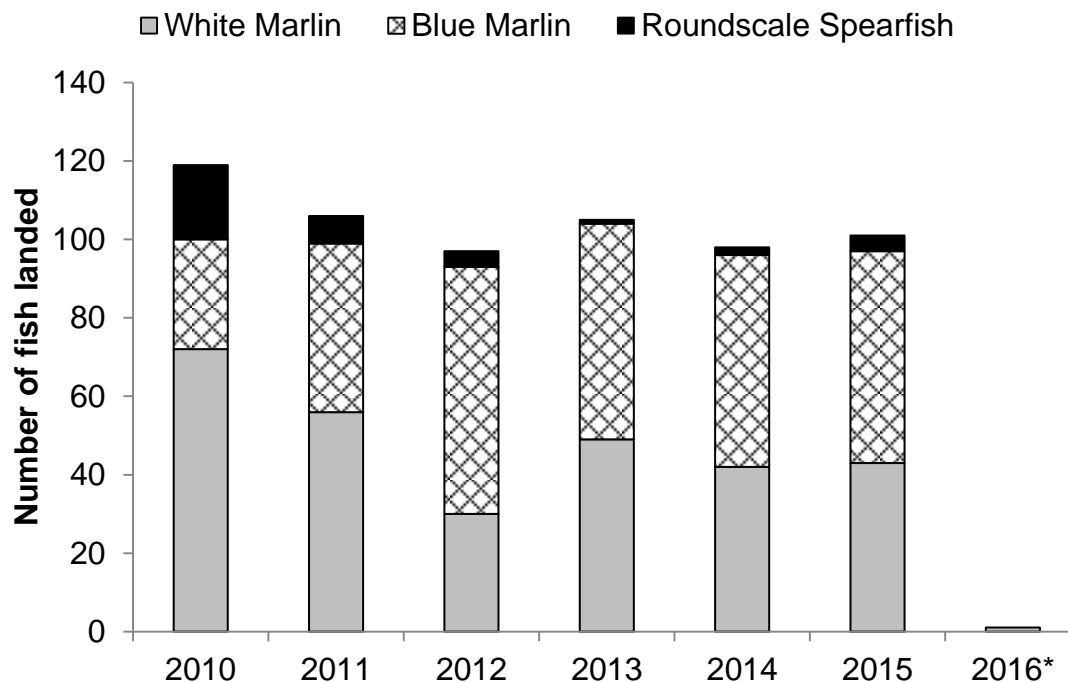
* January 1 – March 22, 2016



North Atlantic Swordfish Landings



Recreational Billfish Landings



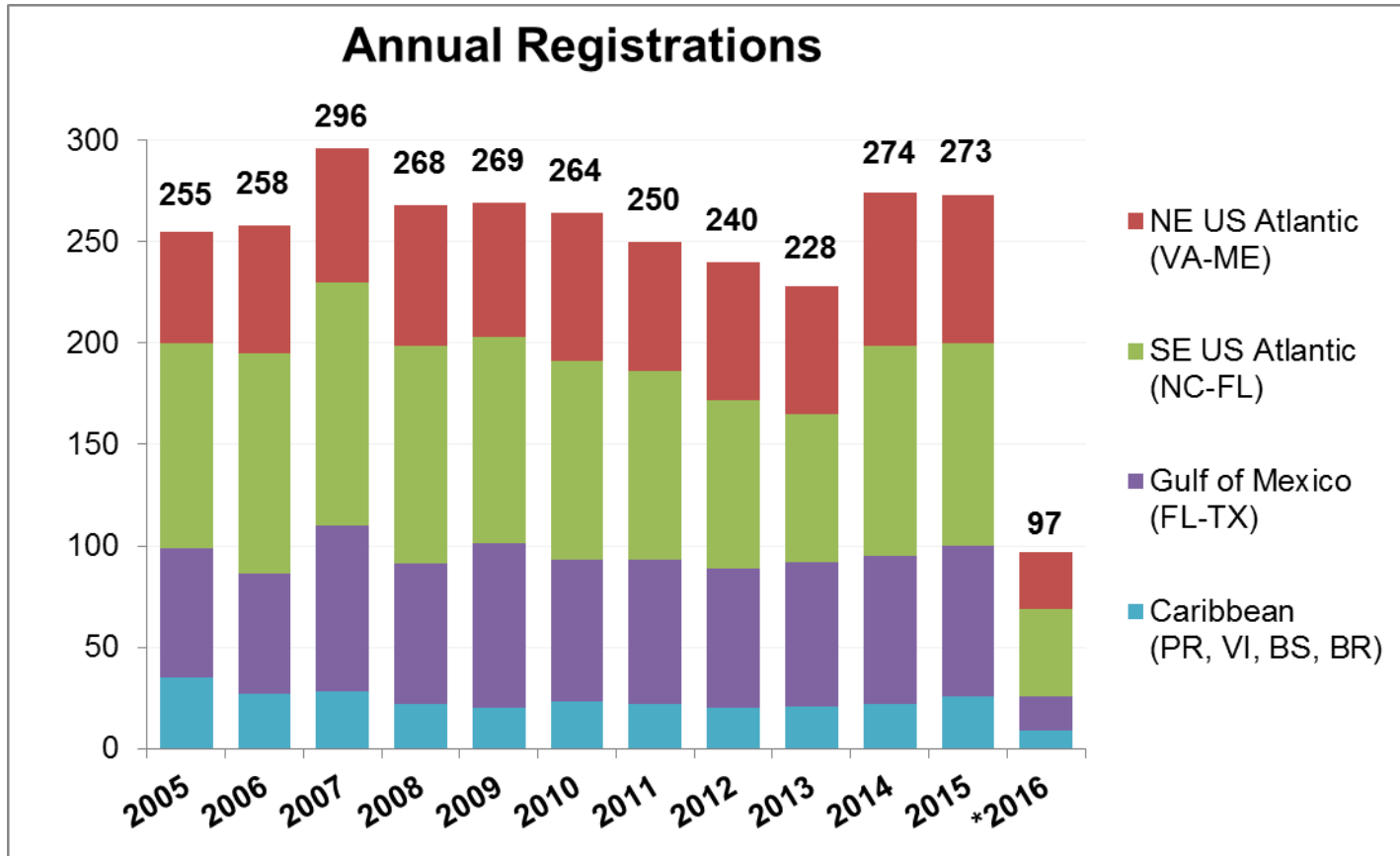
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Blue Marlin	28	43	63	55	54	54	0
White Marlin	72	56	30	49	42	43	1
Roundscale Spearfish	19	7	4	1	2	4	0
Sailfish	192	173	184	173	118	113	38

*Preliminary, January 1 – March 22, 2016

Source: Recreational (non-tournament) Database



Tournaments Update




- **2016 Economics Study Underway**

Tournaments Update

Program Improvements

- Online Registration has had three volunteers; we continue to seek more while we wait for the upgrade
- Internal grant was awarded to upgrade the system and finalize the online tournaments registration and reporting capabilities


NOAA FISHERIES
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OMB Control # 0648-0323
 Expiration date 01/31/2016

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournaments

Register a Tournament

Tournament Name:

Start Date:

End Date:

Director Name:

Tournament Type:

CPUE Category:

Director Address 1:

Director Address 2:

Director City:

Director State:

Director Zip:

Director Country:

Phone:

Fax:

Mobile:

Mail:

Web Site:

Summary Report:

Hook Restriction:

Bait Restriction:

Registration Date:

Comments:

*

Has this tournament registered with NOAA Fisheries before? _____ * Year? _____

Billfish & Swordfish	Tunas	Sharks
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Marlin	<input type="checkbox"/> Bluefin Tuna	<input type="checkbox"/> Ridgeback Shark
<input type="checkbox"/> White Marlin	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellowfin Tuna	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ridgeback Shark
<input type="checkbox"/> Sailfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Bigeye Tuna	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Coastal Shark
<input type="checkbox"/> Longbill Spearfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Albacore	<input type="checkbox"/> Pelagic Shark
<input type="checkbox"/> RoundScale Spearfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Blackfin	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swordfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Skipjack Tuna	

Number of regulation booklets and other outreach materials requested for tournament participants: _____

Archival Tag Proposed Rule

Proposed rule expected to publish soon

- Remove the requirement for researchers using internal or external archival tags to obtain written authorization from NMFS and the requirement for fishermen to report their catches of Atlantic HMS with such tags to NMFS
- Keep the regulations allowing fishermen to land any Atlantic HMS in which an archival tag has been surgically implanted, provided such persons return the tag to the research entity indicated on the tag or to NMFS

Request for comment: Should fishermen who catch a fish with an externally attached archival tag, such as a PSAT, be required to release the fish even if the fish is otherwise legal to land?

ESA Updates – Biological Opinions

- On August 27, 2014, NMFS published a final rule to list 20 coral species as threatened under the ESA; 7 of these species are distributed in U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean waters
- NMFS reinitiated ESA consultation on these coral species, and the newly listed Western and Central Atlantic DPS of scalloped hammerhead for all HMS fisheries (including pelagic longline fishery for which consultation had already been reinitiated) on October 30, 2014
- Consultation ongoing now for all HMS fisheries

ESA Updates continued – Shark Petitions

- Porbeagle Sharks – Full range of populations
 - Status review underway
- Smooth Hammerhead and Bigeye Thresher Sharks
 - 90-day finding on a petition to list the species range-wide or any identified distinct population segments (DPSs) on Aug 11, 2015
- Oceanic Whitetip Shark
 - 90-day finding on a petition to list the species range-wide or any identified DPS published 1/12/2016
 - Comments due by 3/14/16

Operations/Other

- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions; ASMFC for sharks
- Louisiana greenstick gear study – *Final report available on request*
- ICCAT monthly submissions: BFT landings, 20m & BET/YFT vessel lists, *quarterly BET landings starting this year*
- ICCAT e-BCD system in progress
- Atlantic HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting system ~active 439 HMS dealers submit all landings data/negative reports weekly; weekly compliance monitoring; monthly shark & swordfish commercial landings reports
- Online Individual Bluefin Quota system has active accounts associated with 241 Atlantic Tuna Longline permits and 436 dealers with tuna permits.



Office of Sustainable Fisheries Strategic Plan

- Two goals with supporting objectives and strategies:
 1. Sustainable and Resilient Fisheries and Fishing Communities
 2. Organizational Excellence
- Sustainability of Atlantic HMS Fisheries is an objective within 1st goal
- Includes cross-cutting objectives, including partnerships & outreach
- Final Plan Available:
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/about/osf_strat_plan_09_28_2015_final_interactive.pdf

National Initiatives

- National Climate Policy and Regional Action Plans
 - Northeast and Southeast Fisheries Science Centers leading development with HMS input
- Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments
- Comparative Analysis of U.S. Federal Fishery Management to FAO Ecolabeling Guidelines – released Jan 2016
- Safety at Sea Technical Memo - released Feb 2016
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment Methodology released Oct 2015
 - Northeast study released Feb 2016
- Ecosystem-based Fishery Management Policy in development



Looking Ahead – 2016

- Upcoming Proposed Rules/Actions:
 - Draft Amendment 5b on dusky sharks
 - Draft Amendment 10 on HMS EFH
 - 2016 swordfish specifications
 - 2015 ICCAT porbeagle live release
 - Blacknose shark measures
- Upcoming Final Rules/Actions:
 - Adjustment of 2016 northern albacore quota with 2015 underharvest (up to 25% of the U.S. quota, i.e., ~132 mt, per ICCAT recommendation and if available)

Communication Goal: No Surprises

- Goals for All
 - Advisors/Public aware, informed, and engaged
 - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
- AP Member Role
 - Listen and Engage in Discussions
 - Share with Your Constituents
 - Bring Ideas to and Advise Agency
- Agency Role
 - Ensure compliance with all domestic & int'l requirements
 - Raise Issues and Inform AP and Public
 - Listen and Engage in Discussions
 - Make Decisions Considering Feedback

Conclusion/Looking Forward

In conclusion,

- We are covering a lot of ground at this meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

Looking forward,

- We value your input & want your input on priorities & potential solutions

Questions?

Thank you!